(c) Steps have been taken for induction of additional manpower, machinery, and equipment in order to ensure timely completion. Regular liaison is also being maintained with the State Governments to obtain forest/environment clearances.

Budgetary allocations for modernization of Indian Navy

3905. SHRI VIJYA J. DARDA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) what were budgetary allocations relating to modernization plans of Indian Navy during 2004-05 and 2005-06;

(b) did the envisaged modernization plan fructify and the funds fully utilized; and

(c) does the Navy have technologically developed and fully equipped combat and rescue vessels in the fast changing global scenario to adequately take care of our vast coasts during war-like contingencies; and also supplementing vigilance for our off-shore installations, etc. both in peace and hostile conditions?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A. K. ANTONY): (a) to (c) The details of allocation and utilisation of modernisation budget of Indian Navy during 2004-05 and 2005-06 were as follows:

(Rs. in crores)

Year	Budget Estimates (BE)	Revised Estimates (RE)	Actual Expenditure
2004-2005	7630.44	7852.76	8086.68
2005-2006	8924.23	8241.79	7578.98

The funds made available were fully utilised in 2004-05. About 92% utilisation was achieved against the Revised Estimate of the Budget during 2005-06. The Indian Navy has an aircraft carrier and a mix of destroyers, frigates, corvettes, offshore patrol vessels, other minor vessels, aircraft and submarines to deal with various contingencies.

Acquisition of aircrafts for VIPs

3906. SHRI MOHAMMED AMIN:
SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether 3 VIP Boeing business aircraft have been ordered at a cost of Rs. 936.93 crore;

(b) whether the newly ordered VIP aicraft will not be used for international travel, ncessitating continued use of Air India aircraft; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor keeping in view the cost-benefit factor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) The Government has signed a contract with M/s Boeing for purchase of three Boeing Business Jets (BBJ) along with Self Protection Suite (SPS) at a cost of Rs. 961 crore.

(b) and (c) The Boeing aircraft are technically equipped not only to undertake short and medium haul domestic flights, but also international flights up to a range of approximately 3000 Nautical Miles. Travel to international destinations beyond that range and operational requirements may necessitate refuelling halts or use of Air India aircraft.

Shortage of pilots in IAF

†3907. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that IAF is facing shortage of pilots;

(b) whether Short Service Commission has been commenced to meet this shortage of pilots; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) At present there are vacancies of pilots in the Indian Air Force (IAF). However, the operational manning requriements of the IAF are being met.

(b) and (c) Earlier only women were eligible for Short Service Commission (SSC) in the Flying branch of the IAF till 2007. In order to overcome the shortage, the IAF has revised the SSC scheme in flying branch to make both men and women eligible for SSC with effect from January, 2008. The salient features of the SSC scheme are that the establishment of SSC Scheme officers (both men and women combined) is revised to 20% of the authorized officers in the flying branch and the term of engagement is 14 years without any further extension. Under the revised scheme 32 cadets (Men) have commenced flying training with effect from January, 2008.

Violation of Indian laws by arms firms

3908. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the competent authority is aware of the report that there are errant firms which indulged in systematic violation of Indian laws in arms deals with Israel;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any step had been taken to contain such violations;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (e) There is no specific reference to any report in the question. However, CBI has registered a regular case on 9.10.2006 in respect of procurement of Barak Anti Missile Defence Systems. Action against the relevant firm would depend on the outcome of the case filed by CBI.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.